

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 as follows (see the accompanying "marked up" version pursuant to 1.121):

Please amend claims 1- 4 and 11 as follows:

1. (Amended) A garment with a crotch part used in contact with skin, comprising:

a garment main body comprising a stretchable crotch cloth piece; and

a second crotch cloth piece on which an absorbent article is to be applied and held, provided on an inner side of the crotch cloth piece of the garment main body,

wherein the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the garment main body at its front and rear edges and further in a region other than the front and rear edges, the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the crotch cloth piece of the garment main body at least in one portion of its center line, and

right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece are not bonded to the garment main body and are in free state.

2. (Amended) A garment with a crotch part used in contact with skin, comprising:

a garment main body comprising a stretchable crotch cloth piece; and

a second crotch cloth piece on which an absorbent article is to be applied and

held; provided on an inner side of the crotch cloth piece of the garment main body,

wherein the second crotch cloth piece is made of a knitted or woven fabric having stretchability at least in its longitudinal direction;

a straining force in vicinities of right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece and a straining force in a region along a longitudinal center line of the second crotch cloth piece are increased;

the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the garment main body at its front and rear edges and further in a region other than the front and rear edges, the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the crotch cloth piece of the garment main body at least in one portion of its center line, and

right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece are not bonded to the garment main body and are in free state.

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3. (Amended) The garment according to claim 2, wherein:

the right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece have a length shorter than a determined length;

the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the garment main body while stretching the right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece; and

a stretch tape is mounted on a back side of the second crotch cloth piece along the longitudinal center line.

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4. (Amended) The garment according to claim 2, wherein:

the right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece have a length shorter than a determined length;

the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the garment main body at its front and rear edges while stretching right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece; and

C1 the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the crotch cloth piece of the garment main body in approximately full length of the longitudinal center line via a stretch tape on a back side of the second crotch cloth piece.

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11. (Amended) The garment according to claim 8, wherein

C2 a thickness and/or a knitted or woven density of an elastic fiber yarn in a knitted or woven fabric forming the second crotch cloth piece are increased either in vicinities of the right and left edges, or in vicinities of the right and left edges and in vicinity of the longitudinal center line of the second crotch cloth piece, and thereby

a straining force either in vicinities of and in directions along the right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece, or in vicinities of and in directions along the right and left edges and in vicinity of and in a direction along the longitudinal center line of the second crotch cloth piece are increased further.

Please add new claim 47 as follows:

47. (New) The garment according to claim 1, wherein the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the garment main body at its front and rear edges, and also is mounted to the crotch cloth piece of the garment main body along the full length of its center line.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Claims 1-4 and 11 have been amended. New claim 47 has been added. Claims 5-8 and 12-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, claims 1-4, 9-11, and 17-47 are pending and at issue.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to further clarify that the second crotch cloth piece is mounted to the crotch cloth piece of the garment main body in at least one portion of its center line. Support for this amendment is found in the Specification (page 11, lines 2-4) and in Figures 4, 5, 9, and 10. No new matter has been added.

Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to further clarify that the right and left edges of the second crotch cloth piece have a length shorter than a determined length prior to stretching. Support for these amendments is found in the Specification (page 11, lines 18-23). No new matter has been added.

Claim 11 has been amended to further clarify the alternative parts of the garment that may have an increased thickness and/or density and an increased straining